

Genus XANTHOLÆMA.

<i>Xantholæma hæmatocephala.</i>	<i>X. malabarica.</i>
<i>X. rubricapilla.</i>	<i>X. rosea.</i>
<i>X. australis.</i>	<i>X. intermedia.</i>

Genus PSILOPOGON.

Psilopogon pyrolophus.

XXIII.—On *Acredula caudata* and its allied Forms.

By H. E. DRESSER, F.L.S., F.Z.S.

SOME two years ago, when Count Salvadori was in London, I showed him an example of a peculiar form of *Acredula* received from Greece, where it had been obtained on Mount Olympus by Dr. Th. Krüper. Though generally resembling *Acredula rosea*, it differed in several particulars from that bird. Count Salvadori pronounced it to belong, in his opinion, to a perfectly distinct species, and urged me to describe it. This I was loth to do on the faith of a single specimen, and I elected to wait until I could procure more. But I have as yet not succeeded in obtaining another specimen from Greece, where it must consequently be a rare bird. When, last autumn, Count Salvadori again visited England, he urged me to lose no further time in characterizing this bird, and I handed it over to him and proposed that he should describe it. But this he would not do, and I therefore arranged to describe it conjointly with him, which I did at the last meeting of the British Ornithologists' Club in 1892, giving it the name, which Count Salvadori suggested, of *Acredula macedonica*. As only a short diagnosis of this species was published in the Bulletin of the B.O.C., I take this opportunity of giving a fuller description as follows:—

ACREDULA MACEDONICA, Salvad. & Dresser, Bull. B. O. C. iv. p. xv*.

♂ *ad.* Fronte et parte media pilei usque ad occiput albidis; lateribus pilei a rostri basi usque ad cervicem latissime nigris; dorso et corpore supra sicut in *A. rosea*; genis albidis fusco variis; gula albida in medio plaga fusca ornata, et a pectore fascia pectorali transversa

* See also Dr. Bowdler Sharpe's remarks, Bull. B. O. C. v. p. xxiii.

nigricante divisa; gastræo reliquo albido, lateribus, abdomine imo, et subcaudalibus roseo indutis; alis et cauda sicut in *A. rosea* coloratis. Long. tot. 5·5 poll., culmin. 0·3, alæ 2·4, caudæ 3·5, tarsi 0·6.

This new species has the upper parts like *Acredula rosea*, but the black on the sides of the head is much broader and extends to the base of the bill, the lores also being black. The underparts resemble those of *Acredula tephronota* on account of the dark patch on the throat. The type of this species was obtained by Dr. Krüper on Mount Olympus in Macedonia, and is in my own collection.

The number of Long-tailed Titmice inhabiting the Western Palearctic Region is now increased to six, which are as follows:—

1. *ACREDULA CAUDATA* (Linn.), which is easily distinguishable from having the sides of the crown and entire head white.

Hab. Northern Europe and Northern Asia.

Of the Long-tailed Titmice which have the sides of the head black, two have the centre of the back black and the sides rose-coloured, viz. :—

2. *ACREDULA ROSEA* (Blyth), which has the lores and base of the bill white and the underparts white or whitish.

Hab. British Isles, ranging south to Austria and Northern Italy.

3. *ACREDULA MACEDONICA*, Salvad. & Dresser, as above described, which has the lores black and the underparts as in *Acredula tephronota*.

Hab. Greece.

One other species has the sides of the head black, but differs from nos. 2 and 3 in having the centre of the back grey, viz. :—

4. *ACREDULA IRBII*, Sharpe & Dresser, which has the underparts as in *A. rosea*, but differs in having the centre of the back grey and not black, and the centre of the crown generally slightly marked with blackish and not pure white.

Hab. Southern Spain, Southern Italy, and Sicily.

5. *ACREDULA* *TEPHRONOTA* (Günther) resembles *A. irbii*, differing only in having a large blackish patch on the centre of the throat.

Hab. Turkey in Europe, Asia Minor, ranging into Turkestan and Persia.

According to Dr. Radde ('Ornis Caucasica,' p. 141) specimens from Tiflis and the sources of the Schamchor differ from typical *A. tephronota*, and he describes and figures this form under the name of *Acredula tephronota*, var. *major*. I have not been able to procure a specimen of this bird for comparison, and am therefore unable to say whether it can be considered a valid subspecies. There is, however, a Titmouse from Kuban in the Caucasus, viz. :—

6. *ACREDULA* *CAUCASICA*, Lorenz (*Mecistura irbyi*, subsp. *caucasica*, Lorenz, Beitr. orn. Faun. Nord. Kaukasus, p. 60, Nachtrag, 1887), which is specifically distinct. This species, of which I possess one specimen from Kuban, has the back grey, like *A. irbii* and *A. tephronota*, but lacks the blackish patch which the latter has on the throat, though there are a few pale blackish markings on the lower throat. It may, however, be readily distinguished by having the forehead pale brownish and the sides of the crown brown instead of black. It would appear from Dr. Radde's remarks (Orn. Cauc. p. 143) that it is this species to which he refers under the name of *Acredula caudata*.

Hab. The northern slopes of the Caucasus.

I may here remark that Dr. Gadow (Cat. B. Brit. Mus. viii. p. 62) states that the Japanese Long-tailed Titmouse, *A. trivirgata* (Temm.), differs from *Acredula rosea* in having the brownish-black band on the sides of the crown in adult specimens extending over the loreal and nasal region; but in the series I have before me this character does not hold good, as in no specimen does the black extend over these parts. The only differences I can detect between *Acredula trivirgata* and *A. rosea* are that the former is smaller than the latter, the wing measuring 2.2, as against 2.35, and that the black

band on the side of the crown is rather broader in *A. trivirgata* than in *A. rosea*. But these differences are at best very trifling.

XXIV.—*Notes on Paramythia montium and Amalocichla selateriana.* By THE EDITOR.

(Plate VII.)

MR. C. W. DE VIS, the Curator of the Queensland Museum, Brisbane, has, with the consent of the Trustees of that Institution, most kindly forwarded to me for examination examples of the two remarkable types of the Papuan Avifauna which he has lately described as *Paramythia montium* and *Amalocichla selateriana*. Of the former of these, which is one of the most remarkable Passerine forms that I have ever seen, I am able to give a figure, and I venture to add a few notes on both of them, which may be acceptable to ornithologists who have not had an opportunity of examining these rare birds.

Mr. de Vis has referred *Paramythia montium** to the Sturnidæ, but I do not think that can be its proper place. So far as I can tell from the examination of the single specimen (in which the wings are not perfect) it has only nine primaries, and the tarsi are long, slender, and smooth, quite different from those of the Starling-group. But when I ask myself *where* is its natural position I am not able to give a satisfactory answer, nor can Dr. Bowdler Sharpe, who at my request has carefully studied the question, assist me much in the matter. There can be no doubt, however, that *Paramythia* is a typical Oscinine bird, with nearly smooth tarsi and very feeble rictal bristles. If, as I believe, it has only nine primaries, it must come into the Fringilliform Oscines of the British Museum Catalogue (vol. x. p. 1). Of this section the Palæogean families there recognized are the Dicæidæ, Ampelidæ, Hirundinidæ, Motacillidæ, and Fringil-

* First described in 'Annual Report on British New Guinea' for 1890-1 (Brisbane, 1892), p. 95. See also Ann. Queensland Mus. no. 2, p. 6; and Ibis, 1892, p. 348.